

Transportation Reauthorization Status Update

July 8, 2005

An eighth extension of TEA 21 was enacted while House and Senate conferees continue working on resolving differences in the reauthorization bill. The extension continues programs through July 19, 2005.

While the conference committee has not met again, staff for the committee have been working to recommend compromises on a number of issues. Current reports indicate that conferees may have reached agreement on some of the bigger issues, including:

- \$286.5 billion funding level; and
- retaining at 90.2 percent the “scope” of programs to be included in calculating a state’s rate of return.

There are indications that the conference committee will meet next week although it is unclear whether all the issues have been resolved. It also is unclear whether the White House is prepared to sign off on the \$286.5 billion overall funding level, which is slightly higher than the \$284 billion it has supported thus far.